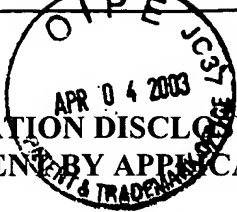


|   |                                    |                               |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  <p><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b></p> <p><b>FORM PTO-1449</b></p> | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>10121/02101    | APPLICATION NO.<br>10/045,975 |
|   | INVENTOR(S)<br>John Jairo Damarati |                               |
|   | FILING DATE<br>January 10, 2002    |                               |

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**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

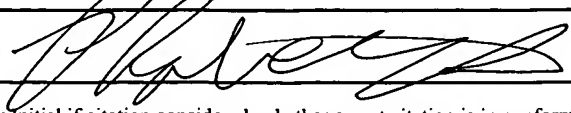
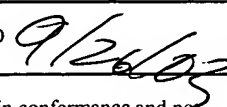
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | PATENT<br>NUMBER | PATENT<br>DATE | NAME    | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING<br>DATE* |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-------|----------|-----------------|
| PR                  | 5,549,631        | 8/27/1996      | Bonutti |       |          |                 |
|                     | 5,810,848        | 9/22/1998      | Hyhurst |       |          |                 |
|                     | 5,891,168        | 4/6/1999       | Thal    |       |          |                 |
|                     |                  |                |         |       |          |                 |

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE<br>(M/D/Y) | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|                     |                    |                 |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
| PR                  | EP 0 641 546 A1    | 3/8/1995        | EP      |       |          |             |    |
|                     | WO 02/053011 A2    | 07/11/2002      | WO      |       |          |             |    |
|                     | WO 01/80746 A1     | 11/1/2001       | WO      |       |          |             |    |

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL |  | AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC. |
|---------------------|--|--|
|                     |  |  |
|                     |  |  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| EXAMINER   | DATE CONSIDERED  |
| EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |   |